

Notes for
“Reality Jamming”
NYCML17

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Data & Society

Fake news is old news

“The gazettes of Europe still continue to be employed as the great engines of fraud and imposture to the good people of America. Stockjobbers are not the only people who employ a set of scribblers to invent and publish falsehoods for their own peculiar purposes. . . . I verily believe there are persons in every State employed to select out these things and get them reprinted.”

John Adams to Robert Livingston, 24 June 1783,
quoted by @w758

Fact production and verification
rare and *fragile*

Truth production ain't the default.

Solution wasn't the 19th century blockchain

Solution wasn't *not* the 19th century blockchain

Technologies and institutions of credibility that
could comport with

Radical democratic order

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Perception Management

- “Actions to convey and/or deny selected information and indicators to foreign audiences to influence *their emotions, motives, and objective reasoning* as well as to intelligence systems and leaders at all levels to influence official estimates, ultimately resulting in foreign behaviors and official actions favorable to the originator's objectives.”
 - Former DOD definition, now lost in new euphemisms

Particular toxicity of state operations plus
massively decentralized democratic organs

Forensics and forensic institutions

Create *possibility* of verification

Best at detection: the forgers themselves

h/t Tony Grafton on forgery